



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 21, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: April 20, 2003
CWP WA-CW1603

Warm Temperatures Boost Growth in Whitman Winter Wheat April Showers Continue to Delay Tillage in the West

Field Crops

Winter wheat and pasture growth took a big jump during the week with temperatures rising into the seventies in Whitman County. Seeding of spring cereals and hay crops progressed as allowed by soil moisture conditions in the eastern region. In the west, April showers continued to delay fieldwork operations. Some Christmas tree growers reported poor weed control from herbicide applications due to the persistent rain.

Livestock

Forage production was ahead of schedule in western Washington, but wet conditions have delayed pasturing. Dairy farmers in northwest Washington were cutting green silage. In central Washington, cattle were being released onto rangeland. In Pacific County, oyster harvest continued with good yields. Range and pasture conditions were 2% poor, 73% fair, and 25% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Tulip and daffodil cut flower growers reported excellent sales prior to the Easter holiday. Truck farmers were complaining that vegetable sowing had already been delayed several weeks due to unfavorable weather in the west. Berry growers were maintaining weeds and fertilizing. Pollination weather in Benton County has been cool and windy with sporadic bee activity. Some hail was received in Chelan and Douglas Counties, but damage to fruit was unknown. Asparagus harvest continued in Franklin County. Throughout central Washington, planting of potatoes, carrots, sweet corn, and onions continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.8
Last Week	4.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	8	83	9
Subsoil	0	20	78	2
Irrigation Water	0	11	89	0
Hay & Roughage	0	5	94	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	69	57	68	70
Spring Wheat Emerged	28	15	32	37
Barley Planted	53	36	49	58
Barley Emerged	10	6	16	22
Potatoes Planted	44	32	38	47
Potatoes Emerged	10	7	16	18
Dry Edible Beans Planted	3	0	7	1
Proc. Green Peas Planted	44	14	24	28
Dry Peas Planted	13	5	22	27

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	7	28	50	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	75	20
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	68	32	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: It rained nearly every day during the week, which limited the days available for fieldwork.

Grays Harbor: Ag producers continued to complain that fieldwork was getting further and further delayed due to the continuing rainfall. The majority of cultivated fields throughout the county remained super-saturated. Christmas tree growers continued to fertilize plantations between showers. Tulip and daffodil cut flower growers reported excellent sales prior to the Easter holiday. Livestock producers were pleased with the rapid forage growth in pastures. The majority of ag producers were feeling stressed due to the persistent rainfall and the resulting delays in field cultivation. A heavy frost late in the week was a preview to clearing skies.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: The rainfall was double to triple the normal rainfall for March and April has had almost continuous rain, which is an indication that the drought is over--just in time to delay spring planting. Forage production was ahead of schedule, but wet conditions have delayed pasturing. Fields have generally been too wet for much tillage activity, but a few dry days could change that.

Kitsap: Rain continued to limit fieldwork. Cool temperatures were delaying plant development except for greenhouse operations.

Pacific: Pasture conditions continued to improve with warmer temperatures. Raspberry producers applied spring fertilizer and initiated spring weed control programs. Oyster harvest continued with good yields.

Pierce/S. King: The week was very good to get out into the

fields and begin field preparations. There were no unusual situations to report and no crop damage due to weather conditions.

Snohomish/N. King: Rain continued most of the week. Fieldwork continued as the weather allowed. Dairy farmers were waiting for some sunny weather to begin grass harvest. Most stone fruits were in bloom.

Shohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Weather conditions have been normal for spring. Daytime temperatures were slowing increasing into the lower 60's. Fieldwork increased as the ground dried and planting dates got closer. Green chop and grass silage cutting began on several dairy farms. Local nursery businesses were seeing a steady increase in customers for home gardening and landscaping projects.

Thurston: Ag producers continued to shake their heads in anguish as day after day of rain continued to keep soils super-saturated. Some Christmas tree growers were reporting poor weed control from herbicide applications due to the persistent rain. Truck farmers were complaining that vegetable sowing had already been delayed several weeks due to unfavorable weather. On a positive note, the rain has helped dissolve fertilizer applications on blueberry and Christmas tree plantations. Forage fields continued to grow rapidly due to the almost daily rainfall. Dairymen continued to complain about low milk prices. Evening temperatures plunged to 30 degrees F. at the end of the week as skies began to clear.

Whatcom: Farmers were disking fields in preparation to plant corn. Berry growers were maintaining weeds and fertilizing. Dairy farmers were cutting green silage.

Central

Benton: Bud breaks in grapes and full bloom in apples will occur in most areas of the county this week. Pollination weather has been cool and windy with sporadic bee activity. Recent rain improved soil moisture.

Benton (2nd Report): Frost protection was very active. Some rain was received. There were no new crop losses due to weather reported.

Chelan/Douglas: Some hail was received during the week. Any damage to fruit crops was unknown. Frost protection measures were implemented. Some precipitation was received. Cattle were being released onto rangeland.

Franklin: The temperatures were mild. Asparagus harvesting continued. Potatoes, carrots, sweet corn, and onions were being planted.

Grant: The weather has been favorable for early crop

development. Sweet corn planting continued. Onion planting was nearly complete.

Kittitas: Recent rains improved moisture conditions considerably. Range and pasture conditions were improving. Fieldwork activities continued in preparation for the start of the irrigation season.

Okanogan/Ferry: Orchard producers were implementing frost protection due to the freezing temperatures. Cattle were put out to spring pastures.

Yakima: Full bloom in apples began. Full bloom will continue in higher elevations until the end of the month. Return bloom was very light with some varieties and in some locations.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from 1 degree above normal to 4 degrees below normal, with .14" of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation maintained the current moisture and crop conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): Warm, sunny Easter skies capped a nice week for crops in the county. Rains in the range of 0.5-0.7" came early in the week to the benefit of all dryland crops. That was followed by seasonal temperatures which stimulated growth of many crops.

Asotin/Garfield: Spring planting continued at a rapid pace as weather allowed producers to remain in fields. Moisture and crop conditions were good at this time. Rangeland continued to improve.

Lincoln: Precipitation during the week maintained the current moisture level and crop conditions. Spring cereal planting progressed northward across the county.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Both counties received additional moisture during the week. Some parts of Spokane County received up to 1.25" while others received only .4". Rain was predominant most of the week in Pend Oreille County. Some spring wheat was seeded. Fieldwork got started between rain

showers. Warm weather during the weekend made things grow and crops looked very good overall.

Spokane: Normal spring weather.

Stevens: Moisture was received during the first part of the week. Temperatures warmed up during the weekend giving crops and pastures a good start. Seeding of spring grain and hay crops progressed as allowed by soil moisture conditions.

Whitman: Fieldwork and seeding of spring cereals progressed well between rain showers. Seeding of spring crops in the western sections of the county neared completion with seeding in the eastern part well underway. Winter wheat and pasture growth took a big jump during the week with temperatures rising into the 70's.

Whitman(2nd Report): Rain showers continued, but temperatures in the low 70's helped growing conditions and the progress of spring work. Tillage, seeding and spraying operations continued county-wide with the western part of the county wrapping up spring seeding.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

April 21, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	40	63	50	2	7	0	0	0	0.37	-0.26	5	21.08	-7.43	74	113
Everett	40	62	50	1	6	-3	0	0	0.59	-0.04	5	21.83	-6.70	77	118
Hoquiam	36	56	48	-2	0	-14	0	0	0.80	-0.22	6	57.62	-0.95	98	129
Kelso	39	64	51	2	11	-3	0	0	0.23	-0.55	4	22.16	-16.29	58	92
Olympia	34	63	48	1	3	-4	0	0	0.05	-0.70	4	33.73	-10.10	77	121
Sea-Tac	41	59	50	2	6	-6	0	0	0.02	-0.51	1	28.92	-2.50	92	111
Shelton	33	61	47	-3	1	-13	0	0	0.56	-0.36	5	51.72	-5.74	90	119
Tacoma	39	63	50	0	4	-8	0	0	0.16	-0.48	4	24.18	-9.33	72	108
Vancouver	42	64	52	4	18	4	0	0	0.45	-0.18	4	30.73	-3.72	89	116
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	26	68	46	-2	0	-9	0	0	0.02	-0.12	1	7.16	0.13	102	68
Omak	25	67	46	0	0	-7	0	0	0.41	0.13	2	9.83	-0.19	98	52
Stampede Pass	27	54	36	3	0	0	0	0	0.74	-0.39	4	53.66	-16.10	77	118
Wenatchee	36	69	50	-1	6	-17	0	0	0.03	-0.11	1	7.97	1.63	126	64
Yakima AP	27	70	48	-2	4	-14	0	0	0.07	-0.07	2	6.87	0.54	109	47
NORTHEAST															
Colville	32	72	48	2	2	-5	0	0	0.59	0.24	4	14.48	-0.79	95	58
Deer Park	26	68	43	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.77	0.45	5	17.93	4.35	132	80
Spokane AP	29	67	44	-3	1	-6	0	0	0.36	0.10	5	12.74	0.71	106	82
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	31	70	48	-4	5	-18	0	0	0.32	0.25	1	7.23	1.69	131	47
Moses Lake	33	71	50	-3	6	-17	0	0	0.49	0.42	1	7.22	1.68	130	64
Quincy	33	69	49	-2	6	-15	0	0	0.35	0.23	1	5.86	-0.18	97	47
Ritzville	29	63	45	-3	2	-6	0	0	0.60	0.42	2	10.13	1.50	117	71
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	31	68	51	-5	10	-29	0	-7	1.09	1.02	3	7.66	2.47	148	59
Pasco	32	72	53	-2	23	-12	0	-6	0.11	0.04	4	6.01	0.20	103	64
Pullman	29	68	45	-1	4	-3	0	0	0.16	-0.19	2	8.27	-7.69	52	74
Whitman Miss.	31	66	50	-2	9	-12	0	-5	0.40	0.12	4	12.23	1.92	119	101
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	28	61	44	-4	1	-6	0	0	0.71	0.35	3	14.65	-4.48	77	75
Lewiston ID	32	63	48	-4	4	-20	0	-5	0.24	-0.04	3	9.19	1.17	115	86

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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